Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Masters and Call and request that the pending claims be reviewed while considering the following clarifications and arguments.

Although a routing table associated with each domain service record might be updated as part of this process, such updating of the routing table is only one possible small subset of the tasks that the present invention performs when functioning in accordance with the presently pending independent claims of this invention.

As stated explicitly in independent claims 1, 10 and 14, the receipt of a new domain name requires that a new entry be made in the directory in the directory server for each component of the domain name that did not exist in the directory. A real time domain service record in a domain name server associated with the directory server is then automatically updated. Finally the new domain is identified by the directory server using the updated real domain record.

This process is shown in Figs. 6 and 7 and detailed in the specification on pages 18, first full paragraph through page 20, line 4.

As is also made clear in the specification (see page 14, first two full paragraphs), directory information, in particular the contents of the directory server, is not the same as routing table information. Routing table information is only a subset of the information contained in the domain service record. The routing table information only indicates how to go from a particular address to another particular address. It does not define or locate the domain names.

Masters only discusses the assimilation and updating of information contained in the routing tables. In Masters, the assimilation process only describes incorporating new or modified routing information. Masters never describes or even suggests the need to modify the domain service record in response to such changed routing table information. In short, Masters is only concerned with one lower level aspect of message transmittal, not the maintenance of an efficient email server system for a large number of users. Masters does not teach or suggest a method or apparatus for adding new domains and their associated domain service record as taught by the present invention.

Even if Call discloses the use of a domain name in association with an incoming message, the Call reference adds nothing to Masters with respect to adding new domains and associated domain service records. Call does not even mention the problem, let alone propose any solution to it.

Masters and Call therefore neither alone anticipate nor in combination make obvious the present invention. Masters only addresses a partial subset of the problem solved by the present invention.

Merely updating the routing tables, which is all that this combination of references discusses, does not offer any teaching on how to update domain server records to incorporate new domain names. As each of the independent claims addresses updating these domain server records to incorporate new domain names, the claims are distinguishable and allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

Michael J. Ferrazano
Reg. No. 44,105

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
(650) 961-8300